

MINUTES

Seattle Human Rights Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 2011, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Jessica Andrade, Damien Carter, Nika Dahlbacka, Andrew Lewis, Joshua Marshall, Marty Penner, Mike Peters, Mica Powers, Roslyn Solomon, Jennifer Yogi

Commissioners Absent: Jesse Aspuria, Merri Ann Osborne, Christopher Stearns

SOCR Staff Present: Chenelle Love

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:11 by Roslyn Solomon

Approval of Minutes: July 2011 minutes were approved as read

SOCR report:

- SOCR is investigating a larger caseload than usual with fewer investigators.
- Two reasonable cause cases in the last two months, both housing, which might lead to hearings or appeals.
- The Taylor v Melton case is scheduled for hearing on October 5th.
- SOCR will be responsible for implementing the Paid Sick Leave Ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the appeals panel training.

Task Force Reports:

- Right to food task force had a well attended meeting. Delegated research and fact finding; plan to compile a report by the end of 2011.
- Police Accountability report to be compiled this month will seek feedback at September meeting.
- Law and Policy task force is currently looking at having a proposal put before the City Council to create a human rights lens for city policy.

Announcements:

- Leadership elections next meeting. Roslyn Solomon announced that she is term limited and will not be able to seek re-election.

New Business:

- A discussion ensued regarding structure of the commission. Concepts were floated to reconstitute the structure of the commission to provide human rights expert opinions on city policy proposals as the fundamental role of the commission. This conversation is to be added to the agenda next month for further consideration.
- Further discussion: The chair of the appeals panel should have specifically named responsibilities. The commission should recognize the chair role in a more structured way to work toward dialog with SOCR's Enforcement Division to gain an understanding of the investigative process with a goal to maintain objective review and better facilitate understanding between SHRC and SOCR.
- The commission should educate, e.g., the right to breastfeed in public by holding forums and other events.
- Further request was made for T-Shirts.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.